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LETTER DATED 13 JUNE 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ERITREA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit a press release issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State of Eritrea on 13 June 1998 concerning Ethiopia's declared decision and measures against Eritreans resident in Ethiopia and Ethiopian citizens of Eritrean origin.

I should be grateful if you would kindly circulate this letter and its annex as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Haile MENKERIOS
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

98-16727 (E) 150698

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Annex

Press release issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Eritrea on 13 June 1998

The Ethiopian Government yesterday, 12 June 1998, decided to expel Eritreans residing in Ethiopia, while others are being fired from their jobs.

The Eritreans who are being expelled are permanent residents who have lived in Ethiopia for decades. Many of them hold Ethiopian citizenship.

The official Ethiopian statement said that the Eritreans were being expelled en masse because they posed a security threat to Ethiopia. The true intention, however, is to create discord between the two peoples.

At the same time thousands of Eritreans are being arrested arbitrarily by the Ethiopian authorities.

The Government of Eritrea strongly deplores this irresponsible act of the Ethiopian Government. It calls upon the international community to denounce Ethiopia's act and to take the necessary action to guarantee the rights and well-being of these innocent civilians.